

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.(original) A decorative assembly for supporting a floral grouping, the decorative assembly comprising:

 a preformed shape-sustaining support member having an open upper end, an open lower end and a peripheral sidewall defining an internal chamber extending between the open upper end and the open lower end thereof, the preformed shape-sustaining support member selectively movable between an expanded condition and a flattened condition, the preformed shape-sustaining support member further having a stabilizing assembly for stabilizing the preformed shape-sustaining support member in the expanded condition, the stabilizing assembly comprising:

 a tab having a proximal end portion and a distal end portion, the proximal end portion connected to the peripheral sidewall of the preformed shape-sustaining support member; and

 a connector for connecting the distal end portion of the tab to a portion of the peripheral sidewall of the preformed shape-sustaining support member for stabilizing the preformed shape-sustaining support member in the expanded condition;

 a sheet of fluid impermeable material disposed about the preformed shape-sustaining support member so as to

provide a decorative cover which extends about the preformed shape-sustaining support member, the sheet of fluid impermeable material sized such that when the decorative cover is formed about the preformed shape-sustaining support member, a portion of the decorative cover extends a distance above the open upper end of the preformed shape-sustaining support member, the decorative cover cooperating with the internal chamber of the preformed shape-sustaining support member to define a reservoir for confining a liquid; and

a securing element for securing the decorative cover about the preformed shape-sustaining support member while maintaining at least a portion of the open upper end of the preformed shape-sustaining support member substantially uncovered by the decorative cover.

2.(original) The decorative assembly of claim 1 wherein the tab is further characterized as having an upper side and a lower side and wherein the connector comprises at least one first slit formed in the distal end portion of the tab via at least one of the upper or lower sides thereof and wherein the connector further comprises a second slit formed in the peripheral sidewall of

the preformed shape-sustaining support member so as to be alignable with the distal end portion of the tab whereby, in the expanded condition of the preformed shape-sustaining support member, the second slit receives at least a portion of the distal end portion of the tab and the at least one first slit formed in the tab matingly engages a portion of the peripheral sidewall of the preformed shape-sustaining support member for stabilizing and maintaining the preformed shape-sustaining support member in the expanded condition.

3.(original) The decorative assembly of claim 1 wherein the preformed shape-sustaining support member is constructed of a polymeric material.

4.(original) The decorative assembly of claim 3 wherein the tab is further characterized as having an upper side and a lower side and wherein the connector comprises at least one first slit formed in the tab via at least one of the upper or lower sides thereof such that the at least one first slit is positioned in the distal end portion of the tab and a second slit formed in the peripheral sidewall of the preformed shape-sustaining support member so as to be alignable with the distal end portion of the tab whereby, in the expanded condition of the preformed shape-sustaining support member, the second slit in the peripheral sidewall of the preformed shape-sustaining support member receives at least a portion of the distal end portion of the tab and the at least

one first slit formed in the tab matingly engages a portion of the peripheral sidewall of the preformed shape-sustaining support member for stabilizing and maintaining the preformed shape-sustaining support member in the expanded condition.

5.(original) A floral holding material comprising:

 a preformed shape-sustaining support member having an open upper end, an open lower end and a peripheral sidewall defining an internal chamber extending between the open upper end and the open lower end thereof, the preformed shape-sustaining support member selectively movable between an expanded condition and a flattened condition, the preformed shape-sustaining support member further having a stabilizing assembly for stabilizing the preformed shape-sustaining support member in the expanded condition, the stabilizing assembly comprising:

 a tab having a proximal end portion and a distal end portion, the proximal end portion connected to the peripheral sidewall of the preformed shape-sustaining support member; and
 a connector for connecting the distal end portion of the tab to a portion of the peripheral sidewall of the preformed shape-

sustaining support member for stabilizing the preformed shape-sustaining support member in the expanded condition.

6.(original) The floral holding material of claim 5 wherein the preformed shape-sustaining support member is constructed of a polymeric material.

7.(currently amended) The floral holding material of claim 6 wherein the connector comprises at least one first slit formed in the distal end portion of the tab via at least one of an upper or lower side of the tab and a second slit formed in the peripheral sidewall of the preformed shape-sustaining support member so as to be alignable with the distal end portion of the tab whereby, in the expanded condition of the preformed shape-sustaining support member, the second slit formed in the peripheral sidewall of the preformed shape-sustaining support member receives at least a portion of the distal end portion of the tab and the at least one first slit formed in the distal end portion of the tab matingly engages a portion of the peripheral sidewall of the preformed shape-sustaining support member for stabilizing and maintaining the preformed shape-sustaining support member in the expanded condition.

8.(original) The floral holding material of claim 5 wherein the connector comprises at least one first slit formed in the distal end portion of tab via at

least one of an upper or lower side of the tab and a second slit formed in the peripheral sidewall of the preformed shape-sustaining support member so as to be alignable with the distal end portion of the tab whereby, in the expanded condition of the preformed shape-sustaining support member, the second slit formed in the peripheral sidewall of the preformed shape-sustaining support member receives at least a portion of the distal end portion of the tab and the at least one first slit formed in the distal end portion of the tab matingly engages a portion of the peripheral sidewall of the preformed shape-sustaining support member for stabilizing and maintaining the preformed shape-sustaining support member in the expanded condition.

9.(original) A decorative assembly for supporting a floral grouping, the decorative assembly comprising:

 a preformed shape-sustaining support member having an open upper end, an open lower end and a peripheral sidewall defining an internal chamber extending between the open upper end and the open lower end thereof, the peripheral sidewall having oppositely disposed creases formed therein so that the preformed shape-sustaining support member is selectively movable between an expanded condition and a flattened condition, the preformed shape-sustaining support member further comprising a tab having

a proximal end portion and a distal end portion, the proximal end portion connected to the peripheral sidewall of the preformed shape-sustaining material and the distal end portion having a substantially vertically disposed slit formed therein, the substantially vertically disposed slit in the distal end portion of the tab adapted to matingly engage a slit formed in the peripheral sidewall of the preformed shape-sustaining support member when the preformed shape-sustaining support member is in the expanded condition for stabilizing the preformed shape-sustaining support member in the expanded condition;

a sheet of fluid impermeable material disposed about the preformed shape-sustaining support member so as to provide a decorative cover which extends about the preformed shape-sustaining support member, the sheet of fluid impermeable material sized such that when the decorative cover is formed about the preformed shape-sustaining support member, a portion of the decorative cover extends a distance above the open upper end of the preformed shape-sustaining support member, the decorative cover formed from the sheet of fluid impermeable material cooperating with the internal chamber of the preformed shape-sustaining support member to define a reservoir for confining a liquid; and

a securing element for securing the decorative cover about the preformed shape-sustaining support member while maintaining at least a portion of the open upper end of the preformed shape-sustaining support member substantially uncovered by the decorative cover.

10.(original) The decorative assembly of claim 9 wherein the preformed shape-sustaining support member is constructed of a polymeric material.

11.(original) A floral holding material comprising:

a preformed shape-sustaining support member having an upper end, an open lower end and a peripheral sidewall defining an internal chamber extending between the open upper end and the open lower end thereof, the peripheral sidewall having oppositely disposed creases formed therein so that the preformed shape-sustaining support member is selectively movable between an expanded condition and a flattened condition, the preformed shape-sustaining support member further comprising a tab having a proximal end portion and a distal end portion, the proximal end portion connected to the peripheral sidewall of the preformed shape-sustaining material and the distal end portion having a

substantially vertically disposed slit formed therein, the substantially vertically disposed slit in the distal end portion of the tab adapted to matingly engage a slit formed in the peripheral sidewall of the preformed shape-sustaining support member when the preformed shape-sustaining support member is in the expanded condition for stabilizing the preformed shape-sustaining support member in the expanded condition.

12.(original) The floral holding material of claim 11 wherein the preformed shape-sustaining support member is constructed of a polymeric material.